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## **Gov. Heineman Presents Nebraska Governor Points of Light Volunteer Awards**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Gov. Dave Heineman will present the Nebraska Governor's Points of Light Awards at a proclamation ceremony October 12 in the Warner Chamber at the State Capitol in Lincoln. The awards are presented quarterly in recognition of volunteers who give their time, talent and energy to help Nebraskans build stronger communities.

**"Governor's quote"**

In the youth category, Miss Jami Harper, Grand Island, NE

For ten years, Jami has actively protected Nebraska's underground aquifer. Following the discovery of industrial solvents in her neighbor's wells, she organized a program to teach water protection and prevent further pollution of ground water. To make the program interesting and fun, Jami developed an educational version of Hollywood Squares entitled "H2Owood Squares." She recruited 34 volunteers from Hall County's seven high schools to present this program to several hundred fourth and fifth graders, parents and teachers across the state. In addition, Jami designed a booth to teach water principles to nearly 1,500 program attendees. In order to further protect the environment, Jamie founded "Operation Clean Air" to help curb teen smoking and institute a smoke-free environment. Jami is definitely a point of light in the State of Nebraska and her community.

In the adult category, Rev. Merwyn Davidson – Aurora, Nebraska

Dr. Merwyn Davidson is a role model and leader for others in his community. He has a gift of recruiting volunteers and generating support needed for community projects. Through his efforts, a youth center and movie theater were created and established in Aurora.

Volunteers from the community manage both the youth center and movie theatre. Rev. Davidson volunteers his time by monitoring halls and tutoring in classrooms at the Aurora Middle School. In addition, he has implemented a Junior Optimist program involving over 70 youth promoting community involvement. Rev. Davidson's passion for providing safe and positive opportunities for growth and service to Aurora's youth has made a difference in many young persons' lives and in his community.

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In the group category, Grace United Methodist Church, Faith Weaver Friends Group – Hastings, Nebraska

The Faith Weaver Friends Group at Grace United Methodist Church is beginning their third year of after school programming to three of Hastings' elementary schools. A group of volunteers led by Christian Education Coordinator, Lori Christy, provide a safe and nurturing environment after school every Wednesday. This program provides homework assistance, music activities, and the cooking and serving of an evening meal. This program also provides the opportunity for the children to participate in community service projects at the Crossroads Homeless Shelter, local food pantry and Good Samaritan Village Retirement Center. This innovative after-school program combines the needs of school children who may not have adult supervision after school with the gifts of retired teachers and other dedicated volunteers willing to share their time. The Faith Weaver Friends Group definitely makes a difference in children's lives and in their community.

Each quarter, Commissioners from the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission review award nominations and make final recommendations to the Governor. The awards are sponsored by Woodmen of the World.

To nominate individuals and groups who have made a difference through volunteerism for a Governor's Points of Light Award, please visit <http://www.nvsc.ne.gov> to obtain a nomination form and instructions or contact 402-471-6225 or (800) 291-8911 to request information.

The Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission supports the efforts of all Nebraskans who are united in strengthening their communities, state and nation through volunteer and community service.

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